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WorkerWill Your Son
Take Orders
From a Nazi?

By A. B. MAGILL.

THE BOYS of the U. S. Seventh Army, who in the winter of 1944-45 slogged through the snow of France in the bitter campaign to destroy Nazism forever, didn't imagine that 12 years later their proud army would be under the command of a Hitler general.

Not yet—but soon, if the West German Government and U. S. Gen. Lauris Norstad, supreme Commander of NATO, have their way. On Jan. 24 the Bonn government responding to an invitation from Gen. Norstad, announced the nomination of Gen. Hans Speidel for the post of Commander of NATO ground forces in Central Europe.

The chief elements under Gen. Speidel's command will be the Seventh Army, now stationed in southern Germany, and the British Army of the Rhine. They total the equivalent of ten divisions and in an emergency would comprise more than 250,000. The New York Times (Jan. 25) describes these troops as "the backbone of North Atlantic ground forces in Europe."

Five West German divisions and smaller French, Dutch, Belgian and Danish forces are to be added to this command, which is now held by a French officer, Gen. Marcel Maurice Carpentier.

WHO is Gen. Speidel?

He is one of the "cleaner" ex-Nazi generals. Speidel's "cleanliness" stems from the fact that

after doing his best to help conquer the world for German Nazism and big business, by 1944 he, like other Hitlerite generals, recognized that the jig was up. He became involved in the plot to assassinate Hitler, make a deal with the West and then continue the war against the Soviet Union, which would presumably be left to fight alone.

Allen W. Dulles, brother of John Foster Dulles and now head of Central Intelligence

Daily Worker Staffers Wire
Ike on Speidel Nomination

— See page 13

Agency, was the chief American secret agent who negotiated with the plotters.

Shrewd enough to join the conspiracy, Speidel was also shrewd enough to become so deeply involved as to forfeit his life. When the plot misfired on July 20, 1944, Speidel was arrested together with others. He spent the rest of the war in prison, but managed to escape execution.



•SPEIDEL

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